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ABSTRACT:

PURPOSE: To detect a magneto-optical signal while detecting a focus error signal with high accuracy by individually receiving a light beam diffracted by a first hologram and the light beam diffracted by a second hologram and detecting a signal.

CONSTITUTION: A light beam outgoing from a semiconductor laser 22 is converged to a magneto-optical recording medium 27, and a return light beam is diffracted by the holograms 25a, 25b. The (+) 1st order diffracted light beams diffracted by the hologram 25a are received by photodetectors 23A, 23B having plural light receiving areas separated with dividing lines roughly parallel to a diffractional direction and the focus error signal is detected from the output. Further, the (+) 1st order diffracted light beams diffracted by the hologram 25b are received by the photodetectors 23C, 23D through polarized light separating elements 28A, 28B and the magneto-optical signal is detected from the output. Thus, the magneto-optical signal is detected while detecting the focus error signal with high accuracy.

